The excess fluoride in water causes dental and skeletal fluorisis and excess nitrate cause blue baby disease. The steps taken to control these diseases in Gujarat are:

'1) Supply of potable drinking water through special schemes in endemic areas;

(2) IEC campaign to advise people on use of alum for defluorination of water; and

(3) Setting up of community based defluorination plants.

Prevention of Sickle Cell Disease

689. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sickle *Ceil* Disease is largely prevalent in certain parts of the country;

(b) if so, where it is more prominent; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERM A]: (a) to (c) Sickle Cell Disease is mostly prevalent in tribal population groups and in some Scheduled Caste communities in the country. The sickle belt in India can be drawn running through central parts of the country including parts of Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and a pocket of South India near Nilgiri hills.

Like any other genetic disorder, management of the disease is largely symptomatic by offering analgesics and other supportive care for different complications. In view of the prevalence of sickle cell anemia in the tribal population, Indian Council of Medical Research has taken up a pilot study in four States, namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa & Tamil Nadu. The outcome of the study will enable

the Govt, to assess the nutritional & hematological problems in order to administer appropriate intervention which will eventually help to formulate a strategy for improving health of these Tribes.

Wild Polio-Virus Cases in Maharashtra

690. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:
SHRI, RAM A MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K, RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few cases of wild polio virus have been detected in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether there is any chance of this virus spreading to other areas; and

(c) what steps are be in'; taken to effectively tackle it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Three cases of wild polio virus have been detected in the State of Maharashtra since 1st January, 2000 from Malakapur, District Buldana; Bhivandi, Distt. Thane; and Varsova, Mumbai Corporation. Steps have been taken to ensure that the infection is controlled and it does not spread in other areas. As a part of the outbreak response," 2472 children in Buldhana; 4878 in Versova and 563 in Bhivandi have been immunized. Mop up rounds and vaccinations were organized in Jalgaon, Jalna, Parbhani, Akola, Wasim, Amravati, Buldhana, Yavatmal Distt. and Amravati Corporation on 8—14 May and 5—11 June, 2000. In addition, mop up rounds will be conducted in Thane, Nashik, Ahamadnagar, Raigad and Pune District and 8 Municipal Corporations of Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan, Uihasnagar, New Mumbai, Nashik, Pune and Pimpri Chinch wad during September and October, 2000.